

April 20, 2010

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Mica
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House of Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry F. Costello
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aviation
House of Representatives
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Petri
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Aviation
House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar, Ranking Member Mica, Chairman Costello, and Ranking Member Petri:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the 'Families of Continental Flight 3407'. We represent the families of forty-two of the victims who died when Continental/Colgan Air Flight 3407 crashed on approach to Buffalo-Niagara Falls International Airport on February 12, 2009. **We are writing in regards to H.R. 4714, the 'National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010', and would like to voice our strong support for the proposed funding level which will allow the NTSB to reach its staffing goal of 477 FTEs.**

The additional funding for increased staffing will not only aid the NTSB's efforts in investigating aviation disasters like Flight 3407, it will allow the NTSB to conduct more investigations in the surface transportation modes, particularly in the areas of highway and rail. And it will also give the Board the capability to do even more in the areas of research and safety studies. These efforts will prevent other families from having to suffer through losing loved ones in avoidable tragedies.

Over the past fourteen months, we have experienced firsthand the incredible service and professionalism that the NTSB provides our country and its citizens. In the immediate aftermath of the crash, their Transportation Disaster Assistance personnel were there for us, and have been there every step of the way since, providing information and an orderly path through a most challenging time. The NTSB Investigative Team made a thorough and timely effort in enabling the Board to hold a three day public hearing on the specifics surrounding Flight 3407 only three months after the crash. This public hearing has proven to be critical in gaining the attention of both Congress and the nation, moving us to the verge of having crucial legislation enacted to address the deficiencies in our airline industry revealed by this accident. And then the Board's entire staff turned in another remarkable effort in completing its final report on Flight 3407 in less than one year, again greatly aiding our group's cause of bringing about change that will prevent this tragedy from occurring again.

In considering our experience, it might seem easy to conclude that the NTSB is sufficiently resourced to accomplish its mission. **However, we were made aware at every step of the way that in accelerating our investigation, other investigations (and the families relying on them) were put on the backburner due to resource constraints. In some cases, these investigations had been ongoing for over two years. And although we were the beneficiaries, such an approach does not seem fair either, and this additional funding will help to alleviate that difficulty.**

While we understand the importance of fiscal restraint in these difficult economic times, when we reflect on the impact of this accident on our lives, spending an additional \$20 million over the next four years to save American lives here at home is well worth it. As we consider the significance and scope of the NTSB's mission, and the professional manner in which they accomplish it, we have full confidence that the Safety Board will make every one of those dollars count.

Sincerely,

'The Families of Continental Flight 3407'

Family of Beverly Eckert
 Family of Mary Abraham
 Family of Nicole Korczykowski
 Family of Alison DesForges
 Family of Kevin Johnston
 Family of Ernie West
 Family of Dawn Monachino
 Family of Zhaofang Guo
 Family of Mary Pettys
 Family of Julie Ries
 Family of Ronald Gonzalez
 Family of Donald Wielinski
 Family of John Fiore

Family of David Borner
 Family of Brad Green, Sr.
 Family of Madeline Loftus
 Family of Dipinder Sidhu
 Family of Jerome Krasuski
 Family of Kristin Safran
 Family of Coleman Mellett
 Family of Don McDonald
 Family of Clay Yarber
 Family of Susan Wehle
 Family of Brian Kuklewicz
 Family of Beth Ann Kushner
 Family of Donna Prisco

Family of Lorin Maurer
 Family of Johnathan Perry
 Family of Donald, Dawn, and Shawn Mossop
 Family of Ronald and Linda Davidson
 Family of Darren Tolsma
 Family of Ferris Reid
 Family of Jean Srnez
 Family of Ellyce Kausner
 Family of Captain Joseph Zuffoletto
 Family of Steve Johnson
 Family of Jennifer Neill and Baby Neill
 Family of Georges Abu Karam
 Family of John Roberts III

KICE
 Terry Manner
 Ann Mahr
 Lina & Tom
 Marilyn Kausner
 Tracy Kuberski
 Justin Krasuski
 Ben Henry
 John Kausner
 Gail Neill
 Robin & Plasma
 Terrence West
 Karen M. Eckert
 Susan Bourque
 Kamaaladsworth
 Taxia Bourque
 Nicole Borner
 Cheryl Borner
 Jennifer Green
 Shanon Green
 Summer Tyne West
 Pingel
 Margie Brandquin
 Karen Wielinski
 Dawn West
 Sandy Guy
 Susan L. Gash
 Carl P. G.
 Lauren Gordon
 Mike Prockel
 Jessica Ayres
 Scott Manner
 Cindy Saltgiver
 P. J. S.
 Paul Yonmaine
 Kately Johnson
 Martin Ayres
 W. R. Shary
 Carolyn Shary
 Jim Dyer
 Ry. Linnell
 Just P. Gally